



MCC[®]

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Sunday, March 30, 2014
4th Lent

*The Pursuit of
Holiness:
A Highway Called
Holy*

930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

**The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in
Christ, changing lives and transforming the world**

MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

Opening Song

Call to Worship

Invitation to Ministry

A Time of Praise (3 Songs)

Prayer Preparation Song

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Children's Blessing

Message

Song of Response

Offering

Offering Song

Communion

Communion Song

Prayer Over Gifts

Closing Song

Commission & Blessing

NOTES FROM THE MCCLV

office

Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel

Office Hours:

Monday: 8am-2pm

Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm

Fri: 8am-12 noon

Space Reservation: Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form**. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.

Audio-Visual Support: Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration? Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall and kitchen for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more information.



MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!

Search **MCC Lehigh Valley**. All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office.
Thank you for your cooperation!

Sunday Bulletin & Announcements

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is
Wednesday at noon – email to office@mcclv.org

MCCLV's WELD Membership process includes participant's writing a letter to God. Below is WELDer Rourke O'Donnell's letter. Enjoy!

Dear God,

Hello and greetings from Allentown, PA ...

You have created me and given me these gifts:

- Perseverance, patience, empathy
- A loving family and loving friends

You are growing me spiritually in these ways:

- Facing daily challenges of epilepsy
- Acceptance and trust in You
- Helping me to find peace

I want to respond to You in these ways:

- By spreading your message of peace and love
- Helping others with epilepsy to understand your plan for them
- Living out your teachings

Love,
Rourke O'Donnell
(03/03/2014)

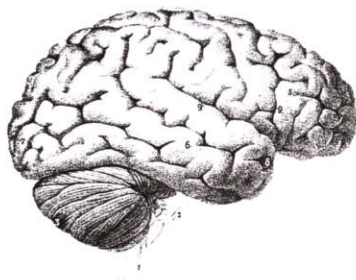


A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

Be true to yourself,
help others,
make each day a masterpiece,
make friendship a fine art,
drink deeply from good books -
especially the Bible,
build shelter against a rainy day,
give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance
everyday

(John Wooden)

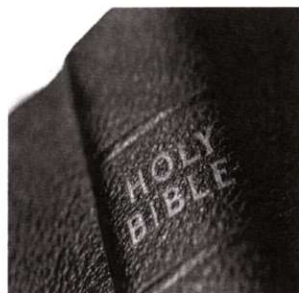
Feast Your Brain on the Bible for 9 Weeks!



Starting in May, MCCLV will host an in-depth study of Paul's Letters to the Romans and Corinthians. The studies will be led by Rev. Goudy and people from all levels of Biblical background are invited to take part. The Romans study is titled

"Why Do Evangelicals Love Romans So Much They Want to Marry It?" The 1 Corinthians study is titled *"A Conflicted Church"* and the 2 Corinthians study is titled *"A Conflicted Church, Continued."* All are welcome and warmly encouraged to grow in Biblical knowledge, wisdom and interpretation. For more information contact the Pastor at rev.goudy@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800.

May 21 at 7pm: Romans 1-4
May 28 @ 7pm: Romans 5-8
June 4 @ 7pm: Romans 9-12
June 11 @ 7pm: Romans 13-16
June 18 @ 7pm: 1 Corinthians 1-6
June 25 @ 7pm: 1 Corinthians 7-10
July 2 @ 7pm: 1 Corinthians 11-16
July 9 @ 7pm: 2 Corinthians 1-7:4
July 16 @ 7pm: 2 Corinthians 7:5-13



MCCLV Drumming Meets Twice a Month

MCCLV drumming is held the 3rd and 4th Sundays at 1:00PM. Bring your drum or other percussion instruments. See Kate Rickson - (k.rickson55@gmail.com) for more information.





FORGE West Leaders:

Scott George smgmcclv@gmail.com

Ron Smith rsmith.mcclv@gmail.com



FORGE South Leaders:

Loreli Bauer lorelibauer@aol.com

Elaine Ely pastor_elaine@yahoo.com



FORGE East Leaders:

Barb Baus babaus@hotmail.com

Lauren Sheldon laurenesheldon@gmail.com



FORGE A stronger relationship with Christ and one another—join a FORGE group!

A FORGE group **is not** a Bible study, Christian training session, group therapy, nor a doctrinal boot camp.

A FORGE group **is** a small, relational gathering of Christians, primarily focused on **transformation** and not information, where people learn how to interpret their entire lives through the lens of gospel and grow in faith in Christ.

Groups meet every other week for one hour—for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically (South, East and West) to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it is not the one nearest you.



Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!

The Convergence Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

April 6 Reading Scripture from the Margins

April 13 Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture



HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV **meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm.**

The focus is on living a positive life with HIV—the group is called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group is limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net

20s30s Gathers First Fridays

Are you in your 20s or 30s? Looking for some fun and fellowship? Would you like to connect with others in your age group? Join the fabulous 20s30s crew at their regular gatherings at

7pm on the first Friday of every month at MCCLV. It's a great place to meet others with common goals and kindred spiritual journeys.



For details contact Scott George email:
smgmccclv@gmail.com

FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS "PEOPLE OF FAITH" VIDEOS

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners!** The weekly 30-minute video surveys the history of Christianity in the United States.

April 2nd, 7:00 PM "Challenges and Change"

- Choir providing meal

April 9th, 7:00 PM "Home Grown Saints"

- 20s30s providing meal

April 16th, 7:00 PM "The Future of Christianity"

- Worship Team providing meal

RSVP to office@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome. **A great family activity!**



*I have told you these things,
so that in me you may have peace
In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome this world.
John 16:33*

Food Pantry

Contributions are always needed for MCCLV's Food Pantry, bring in a donation whenever you are able. Volunteers are also needed for the Pantry.

Contact Judy McNally via e-mail at:
njm0@lehigh.edu



Worship Arts Ministry

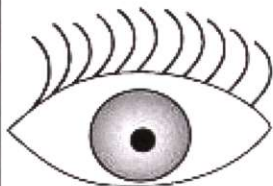
MCCLV is incorporating multi-media, multiple readers, memorization, use of hand held microphones and staged readings to breathe new life into the reading of sacred scripture on Sunday mornings.

Participants are required to take part in run-throughs immediately after worship the Sunday prior to the scripture presentation.

Contact ministry leader Dean Hiatt to participate or if you have any questions (email: robdean@ptd.net)



MCCLV's **Altar Guild** is looking for people who have an eye for design, a heart for good flow and a mind that likes to make sure all the pieces of a puzzle come together.



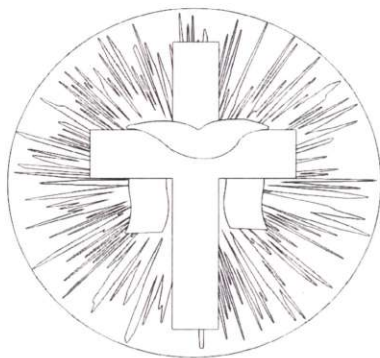
If that is you, email Normana Schaaf at: normana.schaaf@verizon.net

MCCLV is collecting donations for food cards every **2nd Sunday of the month** after the worship service. Consider making a donation to help those in great need of reducing their grocery store bills. Questions? Contact Michaela Rivera or e-mail her at rednegshart@aim.com



Give a Special Easter Gift

Has God provided you with any goodness or grace so far this year? Has God given you new hope or a new understanding? Has God blessed you or kept you? On Easter Sunday (April 20, 2014) MCCLV will gather and celebrate the resurrection of Christ - praise God for the gift of new life! Give honor to God this Easter by giving a special "extra" Easter financial gift through MCCLV so that your faith community may continue to thrive. Give above your regular financial giving as a thank you for God's goodness, grace, hope and blessings!





Centering Prayer Group

**Centering Prayer begins
Wednesday, May 21**

**6:00pm
MCCLV's Prayer Room**

**Meeting weekly on Wednesdays
through July**

Do You Play An Instrument?

If you are proficient in Guitar or Bass
MCCLV's Joyful Noise Worship Band
is looking for you.

Band rehearses weekly
Thursday @ 7pm
during Lent

Contact Brian Jones
for more information



Boldly Going...

Do you like playing with the latest techy gadget or enjoy knowing how new electronic devices work? MCCLV's Tech Squad could be the place to put your tech hobby to practical use. Learn how to run MCCLV's multi robotic camera system or how to create the best sound for the sanctuary and how to keep the worship services flow going using the screens. If you would like to know more contact Jeff Hayes at: avteam@mcclv.org



MCCLV'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Open every Sunday at 12:00-1:00 PM to
serve the community. The pantry is in
need of donations. Drop off items in
front of the pantry door. Thank you!





Adopt an Apartment
6th Street Shelter in Allentown
Service opportunity for MCCLVers
Mark your calendars now
April 5, 2014—9:00AM
Stay tuned for details!
E-mail: babaus@hotmail.com

Earn Money for MCCLV Shopping at AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support MCCLV at no cost. To shop at AmazonSmile go to www.smile.amazon.com and 0.5% of any product marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" will be donated to MCCLV. Those with an existing Amazon account, can continue to use that same account on AmazonSmile. First time visitors to www.smile.amazon.com will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations. MCCLV is listed as "MCC of the Lehigh Valley" and will be remembered so that all future purchases made at AmazonSmile will result in a donation to MCCLV. Questions, please see any member of the Board.



Save The Date!

MCCLV's **30th Anniversary Banquet**
has been scheduled for **May 31, 2014.**

More details to come soon!

*Happy
Anniversary*

Want to Know More About MCCLV?

Learn about the blessings that your church is experiencing right now at a Congregational Forum on **Sunday, May 4**. The gathering will start with a **Potluck Meal at 12:00PM**, followed by the **Forum from 12:30-2:00PM**.

Strategic goals will be reviewed, along with updated financial information. All are welcome, no need to be a church member. Thank you in advance for all that you have done so far in 2014 to glorify God through MCCLV - your time, talent and treasure really do make a difference!



Early Morning Prayer

What if you could pick up the phone any time you wanted and talk with the most powerful leader or most famous celebrity in the world? Multiply that concept by a million, skip the phone and you're connected to God. WOW! What an amazing gift we are given, 24/7, with the Creator.

Every Sunday at 8AM, MCCLV gathers to converse with God. Come and be blessed as you connect with God through conversational and silent prayer. It truly is an amazing 45 minutes that will start your week with real power. For more information, contact Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org



DEALING WITH THE PAIN OF A LOSS?

Loss and grief are part of life, but can be difficult to process alone. Elaine Ely is a trained, experienced and certified specialist in the area of end-of-life issues, loss and grief, being hosted by MCCLV. Her current hours here are **Wednesdays from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm** (other hours can be arranged upon request). For a single consultation or on-going counseling, reach her at elaine.ely.pastor@gmail.com or 215-915-4370. Also, watch for details on an up-coming workshop: "Facing Grief - Yours and Other's", and a 6 week support group series to be offered this fall.



MCCLV's WELD Membership process includes participant's writing a letter to God. Below is WELDer Shawn DeVault's letter. Enjoy!

Dear God,

Hello and greetings from Allentown, PA ...

You have created me and given me these gifts:

- Passion for kids
- Perseverance
- Humor

You are growing me spiritually in these ways:

- Working on my patience/trust in your timing
- Giving up control to allow God and others to help me
- Growing in self-confidence and confidence in my gifts

I want to respond to You in these ways:

- Trusting you, your plan, your timing
- Help others grow closer to you, through the lessons you use to help/improve me too
- Excitedly walking new steps in the path you've created for me

Love,

Shawn DeVault (03/03/2014)



MCCLV Pastor To Serve As Clergy Wellbeing Coach



MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy has been invited to serve as a Clergy Wellbeing Coach for the denomination of Metropolitan Community Churches. After training, Rev. Goudy will assist in providing pastoral care for clergy, will help in offering programs on developing clergy wellbeing and will serve as an advocate for clergy who are struggling with spiritual, emotional, addiction or other health issues. Rev. Goudy's service will take place within the Office of Leadership & Development, administered by the Clergy Wellbeing Coordinator.

**Seder Dinner
April 17, 2014
7:00PM
MCCLV Sanctuary**

The Deacons of MCCLV cordially invite you to a Celebration of Family and God's protection - a Seder Dinner on **Holy Thursday, April 17th at 7:00PM** in the Sanctuary.

There is no cost for this event but reservations are required. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider bringing your family or a guest.



Calling All Readers!

Do you enjoy reading novels in a variety of genres? Your help is needed. MCCLV Pastor Elizabeth Goudy will have a rough draft of her book prepared following her sabbatical months of August-September, 2014. A group is needed to read through the manuscript in October, 2014. This is a short-term activity but will require a high level of commitment and focus. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, talk with the Pastor following worship or contact rev.goudy@mcclv.org. Also, if you have experience with the publishing industry or using the services of a literary agent, see the Pastor.





UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

5th Lent: April 6, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 57:13-18

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness VI: Humility"**

Palm Sunday: April 13, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Readings: Psalm 118:19-29 & Matthew 21:1-11

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"A Parade of Righteousness"**

Good Friday: April 18, 2014 @ 7:00pm

Scripture Readings: Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:7-9

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"Reverent Submission"**

Easter: April 20, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Readings: Acts 10:34-43 & Matthew 28: 1-10

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"No Partiality"**

2nd Easter: April 27, 2014 @ 10:30am

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 10:12-22 & Psalm 140

Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy

Sermon Title: **"So There's No Partiality With God Yet Why Is The World So Partial?"**

Today's Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 35:3-10

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
3/23/2014	94	\$2,491.49
3/16/2014	99	\$4,584.50
3/9/2014	84	\$1,544.12
3/5/2014	58	\$719.00

Full financial reporting is provided at the Board meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All are welcome to attend. Additionally, reports may be viewed in the Board binder in the Library.

MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Congregational Care & Health:

Karl Steiner | karl.steiner@mcclv.org

20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality,
Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

Discipleship:

Robert Schotter | robdean@ptd.net

Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming
and Children & Youth Ministry

Outreach & Justice:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank,
Messengers Art Ministry and Helping Hands Ministry

Media & Marketing:

See Rev. Goudy for more information

Communications and Marketing Ministry

Denominational Representatives:

Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre,
Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith

**If you would like an item included on the Board agenda
see any Board Member**

MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby,
Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

MCCLV STAFF

Pastor: Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org

Music and Worship Director: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org

Administrative Assistant: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org